



February 5, 2015

*Written testimony of Peter A. Showstead, Administrator, of Sharon Healthcare Center Concerning*

**\*Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05586-R00-HB.htm>

**\*Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/H/2015HB-05812-R00-HB.htm>

**\*Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.** <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/TOB/S/2015SB-00231-R00-SB.htm>

Good evening Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Peter Showstead. I am the Administrator at Sharon Healthcare Center in Sharon, Connecticut. Sharon Healthcare Center is a longstanding provider of nursing care in the community of Sharon, CT. We are a 88 bed facility and are currently employing over 100 workers.

First I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. And thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all get to the same issue. Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills recognize that just can't work over time and provide for increasing rates, by an annual cost of living adjustment or through a formula that increases rates based on the nursing facilities costs.

The message from the operator's point of view is simple----Our nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

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Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- Our residents are aging in place and require a more costly higher level of care
- Medications are more costly
- We are experiencing increased difficulty in collections specifically applied income. Families have become more dependent on our elderly residents personal funds, Social Security, and pensions.
- Our daily costs to care for our residents including fuel, food, IT, and obtaining background information/criminal checks have risen significantly.

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

I thank you for your time in considering this request. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Shonstead".